### 6.22.1 Snakes

#### 6.22.1 a Training

All SEEDS employees will be provided with information and informal training from the Site Supervisor.

#### 6.22.1 b Worksite Methodology

Snakes bite people for a variety of reasons.  Most commonly it is because people deliberately interact with them, by attempting to catch, kill or hurt them. If you see a snake, the best way to avoid being bitten is simply to leave the snake alone. SEEDS crew are required to take a snake bite kit with them at all times in the warmer snake season. In addition:

* Wear Safety Boots, Trousers, and Gaiters when on site.
* Be aware of where you are placing your feet.
* Do not put hands or feet in or under logs, rocks, hollows, crevices or debris without checking first if there is a snake there.
* In most instances if a snake is left alone they will move away from a confrontation; it is not often, if ever that a snake will bite or ‘attack’ a person for no apparent reason.
* *Snakes are not aggressive*, but are highly defensive by nature.

#### 6.22.1 c Signs and symptoms

* puncture marks
* nausea, vomiting and diarrhoea
* headache
* double or blurred vision
* breathing difficulties
* drowsiness, giddiness
* pain or tightness in the throat, chest or abdomen
* respiratory weakness or arrest

#### 6.22.1 d Management

Check signs of life.

* If casualty unconscious, follow **DRSABCD**.
* Calm casualty.

Apply bandage to bite site:

* if on a limb apply a broad pressure bandage (crepe bandage preferred) starting just above fingers and or toes and as far up the limb as possible.

Immobilise casualty:

* apply a splint to immobilise bitten limb
* check circulation in fingers or toes
* ensure casualty does not move.

**Call 000** for an ambulance.

**DO NOT** wash the venom off the skin.

**DO NOT** cut the bitten area.

**DO NOT** try to suck venom out of the wound.

**DO NOT** use an arterial tourniquet.